



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 November 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- The *Daily Press* reports that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave the Virginia-based Dominion power plant the permit to build a new power plant next to its existing North Anna reactors. The construction will be the first new nuclear power plant in the country since the Three Mile Island disaster in 1979. (See item [6](#))
- The *Associated Press* reports that the nation's oldest subways are in dire need of repairs and upgrades. Transit officials say problems abound in subway systems in New York City (the nation's largest), Boston, Washington, D.C., and, most of all, Chicago. (See item [11](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *November 21, Bloomberg* – (National) **Nymex natural gas declines on outlook inventories to increase.** The price of natural gas in New York declined before the release of a government report that will probably show that supplies rose. U.S. inventories increased 4 billion cubic feet for the week ended November 16, according to the median of 22 analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg. Supplies typically decline 7 billion cubic feet for the same week, based on the average of the past five years, according to the Energy Department. Gas for December delivery fell 2 cents to \$7.457 per million British thermal units at 10:16 a.m. on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Gas declined 4 percent yesterday.
Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aBvX2kjJTbQk&refer=energy>

2. *November 21, Bloomberg* – (National) **Houston Ship Channel open to tankers after fog-related closings.** The Houston Ship Channel, which serves the largest U.S. petroleum port, is open to oil tankers and other vessels after being closed much of the past two days because of fog. Pilots are working to bring in vessels that were backed up in the Gulf of Mexico, while waiting to enter Galveston Bay and the 54-mile ship channel, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesman said in a telephone interview. The channel was shut down at 1:05 a.m. local time on November 19 and reopened sporadically since then. The backlog of incoming vessels has been reduced to 18. As many as 44 vessels were awaiting entry yesterday morning.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aCqHIQ9NRGgU&refer=energy>

3. *November 20, Charlotte Business Journal* – (Indiana) **Duke gets approval for \$2B coal plant in Indiana.** Duke Energy Corp. has received approval from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission to build a coal-gasification plant in Edwardsport, Indiana. The \$2 billion, 630-megawatt plant is designed to capture carbon emissions for storage underground. It will be the first commercial-scale plant of its kind built in the United States in the last 10 years. “In the Midwest, coal is plentiful and low-cost, and finding ways to burn it cleanly is fundamental to meeting our customers’ demand for power,” said the Duke Energy Indiana President. “The Edwardsport facility could very well be the cleanest coal-fired power plant in the world once it’s completed.” Duke could begin construction early next year and start producing power from the site by 2012. The project still requires approval from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Edwardsport is about 100 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

Source:

http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/stories/2007/11/19/daily21.html?jst=cn_cn_lk

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *November 21, WALB TV 10 Albany, Georgia* – (Georgia) **Chemical scare in Mitchell County.** Two dozen people were taken to the hospital Tuesday night after a chemical scare in Mitchell County, Georgia. Carbon monoxide or a pesticide called methyl bromide, or maybe a combination of the two caused the trouble at a local pecan company. Emergency workers had to investigate whether the dangerous chemicals were coming from a leak or spill inside the warehouse. As a precaution, Albany Hazardous Materials teams dressed in white suits washed off workers with water inside a decontamination tent. Their clothing was bagged and sealed. They were then all taken to a local hospital for more extensive testing.

Source: http://www.walb.com/Global/story.asp?S=7391017&nav=menu37_3

5. *November 21, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **State review finds chemical plant**

hazards. A year after a chemical explosion at a Danvers factory in Massachusetts leveled the surrounding neighborhood on Thanksgiving Eve, state officials said yesterday that a review found that two similarly sized plants in urban areas presented an “imminent hazard” and that other facilities violated state and federal safety codes. The findings, released to the *Boston Globe* in advance of a final report due in the coming weeks, are the result of the first federally approved plan to inspect small chemical and hazardous waste plants that state officials have said could pose a significant danger. The two plants, one in Worcester leaking anhydrous ammonia and the other in Lawrence covered with combustible dust, took action to reduce the threat. Over the past six months, teams from the state departments of fire services and environmental protection joined local fire officials to inspect 41 plants from Pittsfield to Braintree. State officials said that all the companies cooperated in the inspections and that about two-thirds of them had taken action to remedy potential hazards before the inspection teams arrived. Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/11/21/state_review_finds_chemical_plant_hazards/

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *November 21, Daily Press* – (Virginia) **Feds approve site for nuclear reactor.** With the nuclear power plant parts on order and a site approved outside of Richmond, Dominion Virginia Power plans to apply for a construction license with the federal government in the next month. After a four-year review, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave a site permit approval to Dominion on Tuesday that allows the Richmond-based utility to build next to its existing North Anna reactors any time in the next 20 years. Dominion is the third company to receive a permit to build a new nuclear power plant, the first new nuclear power plant in the country since the Three Mile Island disaster in 1979. Utilities nationwide are scrambling to be among the first group in a nuclear resurgence so they can get federal subsidies aimed at spurring new plants.

Source: http://www.dailypress.com/business/dp-biz_dominion_1121nov21,0,2713545.story

7. *November 20, Associated Press* – (Washington) **EPA, Energy Department reach agreement over Hanford violations.** The U.S. Department of Energy reached an agreement with its regulators Tuesday to settle a \$1.14 million fine for cleanup failures at the nation’s most contaminated nuclear site. The fine was the largest ever levied by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Northwest office over work at the Hanford nuclear reservation in south-central Washington. The penalty concerned operations at a landfill for contaminated soils and other hazardous and radioactive wastes from cleanup operations. The federal government created Hanford in the 1940s as part of the top-secret Manhattan Project to build the atomic bomb. Today, workers labor to rid the 586-square-mile site of waste left from decades of plutonium production for the nation’s nuclear weapons arsenal. The problems came to light in January, when a subcontractor at the site discovered that an employee had been recording data for compaction testing at the landfill, when in fact no testing had been done since June

2005. Landfill workers also failed to perform weekly inspections of the landfill's system to collect and remove liquids, the EPA said. The system is intended to reduce the risk of leaks.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/6420ap_wa_hanford_fine.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *November 20, Government Executive* – (National) **Pentagon's counter-bomb agency running out of money.** The Pentagon will be forced to stop funding new bomb-fighting research, will not be able to send promising new technologies to troops in combat and will have to lay off hundreds of contract workers if more money for its counter-bomb agency is not found by the end of this month, said its outgoing chief this week. Lawmakers slashed funding for the Arlington, Virginia-based Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), giving the agency only \$120 million in the just completed 2008 defense bill, instead of the \$500 million it had requested. In his final press conference before leaving his post on November 30, the agency's director, a retired Army General, asked for more money "to keep the lights on." JIEDDO has about \$350 million carried over from fiscal 2007 to spend. JIEDDO faces fixed costs maintaining fielded equipment and funding its Counter IED Operations Integration Center, an intelligence office that the former director said is vital to the counter-bomb effort. The agency is tasked with finding promising counter-bomb technologies, testing them and sending them to troops in the field. JIEDDO funds the maintenance of that new equipment for at least two years, until it is purchased by the military services

Source: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=38638&dcn=todaysnews

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *November 21, Birmingham News* – (Alabama; Tennessee) **Scam targets Regions Financial customers via phone, e-mail.** Regions Financial Corp. says scam artists using an automated phone message system and e-mails are trying to direct bank customers to an authentic-looking Web site as part of a rip-off scheme. The fake e-mails and automated calls started Monday night and have been reported across Alabama and Tennessee, a Regions spokesman said Tuesday. The e-mail directs readers to a Web site that is identical to Regions' online banking sign-in page, but it does not have www.regions.com in the address line. The automated phone call, meanwhile, directs customers to log on to the Web site or call a toll-free phone and provide information needed to access their accounts. The spokesman stressed that Regions - or any reputable financial institution - would not request that kind of information over the phone or through an e-mail. "If people have inadvertently given out their account information, please contact Regions so we can close your accounts immediately," he said. An FBI spokesman urged Regions customers to report any suspicious phone calls or e-mails requesting personal information to their bank.

Source:

<http://www.al.com/business/birminghamnews/index.ssf?/base/business/1195636793119480.xml&coll=2>

10. *November 21, Detroit Free Press* – (National) **SEC sues over alleged scam.** A 71-year-old Oakland County, Michigan, man is being accused of defrauding as many as 1,200 investors, many of them senior citizens, of up to \$250 million. A lawsuit filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) alleges that the man and his company, E-M Management Co. LLC, raised between \$74 million and \$250 million by fraudulently selling securities through various companies between 1998 and July 2007. The deals involved investors in Michigan, California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Ohio and New Jersey. The suspect and E-M relied on a network of individuals, some of whom organized investment seminars, to entice investors to invest through E-M. The SEC is seeking a court order for the man to repay the money, with interest, and a penalty.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071121/BUSINESS06/711210399/1002/BUSINESS>

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Transportation Sector

11. *November 21, Associated Press* – (National) **America's subways in dire need of repairs.** Industry watchers say the nation's oldest subways are in dire need of repairs and upgrades to fix everything from decades-old track in Chicago to serious overcrowding in New York, but do not have enough money to keep up. Federal, state and local spending on mass transit is around \$40 billion a year and that should be increased by \$25 billion to properly repair and upgrade U.S. networks, a research firm has concluded. Others have suggested doubling or tripling what is spent now. Transit officials say problems abound in New York City's subway system, the nation's largest, in Boston, in Washington, D.C., but mostly in Chicago, where the average rail car is 23 years old and nearly one-third exceed the 25-year maximum recommended by federal authorities. Presently, city and state lawmakers are discussing a possible regional sales tax or casino gambling to pay for improvements.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,312392,00.html>

12. *November 20, KFDM 6, Texas* – (Texas) **Stowaways on ship investigated for possible terrorist ties.** KFDM News has learned that two foreign nationals had been in custody since Tuesday night after they were found hiding on a ship carrying military equipment to the Port of Beaumont, Texas. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit says the Alaskan ship owned by Tote was headed into the port, however the stowaways were discovered and taken into custody before the vessel entered the Sabine-Neches waterway. The commercial vessel is under contract to ship military cargo. Military officers believe the two men might have ties to terrorist groups although that is still under investigation, but for that reason they conducted a search of the ship. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, including the swat team, as well as Beaumont police and port police and the

Coast Guard, was looking for other stowaways, but it did not find any other people hiding and no weapons were found. Coast Guard officers say the owners of the ship could face a fine of about \$40,000 for a breach of security.

Source:

http://www.kfdm.com/news/ship_23582_article.html/stowaways_military.html

13. *November 20, ABC 15, Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Airline passengers unscreened for Las Vegas flight.** ABC 15 investigators found that on more than one occasion, passengers flying from the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport in the East Valley, Arizona, did not pass through a metal detector or undergo any security screening at all. The carrier, Vision Airlines, operates planes that only hold 30 passengers because a higher number requires the presence of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). But even with TSA agents on site, investigators found Vision Airlines passengers still going unscreened. ABC15's cameras rolled as the Vision passengers walked onto the tarmac without so much as a once over by the ticket taker. This occurred with TSA agents in the next room over. An aviation analyst calls the 30 passenger rule outdated and points to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport as proof. However, it is important to note that neither TSA, nor the airport, is violating any policies: what is in question is the policy itself.

Source: http://www.abc15.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=e57bc51f-0364-41f1-b7ec-47e77be8cd14

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

14. *November 21, USAgNet* – (Florida; National) **USDA revises regulations for movement of citrus fruit from Florida.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending its citrus canker regulations to eliminate the pre-harvest grove inspection for all Florida citrus moving interstate. Instead, the amended regulations will require samples of each lot of citrus at the packinghouse be inspected to ensure the fruit is disease-free. This rule will be published in the November 19 Federal Register. APHIS' pest risk analysis concluded that the risk associated with the interstate movement from quarantined areas of citrus fruit that is free of citrus canker lesions is insignificant. Its risk management analysis concluded that a mandatory packinghouse inspection of commercially packed fruit provides an effective safeguard to prevent the spread of citrus canker from quarantined areas. This final rule replaces an interim rule, published August 1, 2006, that required all Florida citrus fruit destined for noncitrus-producing states to originate in groves that were inspected and found free of citrus canker no more than 30 days prior to harvest. Under the previous regulations, APHIS officials conducted packinghouse inspections as an additional safeguard to ensure that fruit shipments leaving Florida were canker-free.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=2784&yr=2007>

15. *November 21, Star Bulletin* – (Hawaii) **USDA could clear path for isle tropical fruits.** Under a proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), published in the federal registry on November 15, tropical fruit from Hawaii could be shipped to the mainland under the same rules already in effect for fruits from Thailand and other foreign countries. While the federal government already allows mangosteen, dragon fruit, Korean melon, breadfruit and jack fruit grown in other countries and treated with irradiation to be shipped to the United States, the same fruit grown in Hawaii are prohibited from going to the mainland, even though Hawaii has been asking the USDA for rule changes since 1997. Specialty tropical fruit sales are one of the bright spots in Hawaii's agriculture industry. An estimated 1.45 million pounds of fruit sold for about \$2.6 million last year. The Hawaii Agriculture Department plant quarantine administrator thinks there is a market for exotic Hawaiian fruit, but he said foreign growers still have an advantage over Hawaii, because the approval process to bring in new fruit from other countries has been expedited. This means new foreign fruit and vegetables can be approved within a year or two, while Hawaii's applications must still go through a longer quarantine review process. Hawaii is still waiting for the federal government to act on applications to approve shipping of Hawaii citrus and guava filed nearly a decade ago.

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2007/11/21/news/story09.html>

16. *November 20, Western Farm Press* – (California) **Two USDA agencies direct \$6.6 million to assist farmers in wake of fires.** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Farm Service Agency (FSA), two agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are announcing that they will make \$6.6 million available to help farmers and ranchers recovering from Southern California fires in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties. Avocado, citrus groves and nurseries have been especially hard hit by these recent fires. From the NRCS, \$4.6 million is being made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to protect newly exposed soil from severe erosion and to install agriculture infrastructure such as irrigation systems, needed to maintain the crops and other vegetative covers essential to protecting the hillsides. Through FSA, roughly \$2 million will be made available for debris removal from orchards and to replace livestock fencing, through the Emergency Conservation Program. Both programs will offer a 75 percent cost share. Applicants approved and funded are responsible for carrying out their EQIP conservation recovery plans. All applications will be screened for eligibility and proposed projects must show environmental benefits over existing conditions. In San Diego County alone, about 100 farmers are expected to sign up for assistance.

Source: <http://westernfarmpress.com/news/112007-fires-assist/>

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Water Sector

17. *November 21, Associated Press* – (California) **Lake Mendocino approaching record-low water levels.** Local officials in Ukiah, California, are concerned about low water

levels at Lake Mendocino that may prompt severe restrictions if they do not see rain soon. The man-made reservoir, a primary source of water for local water districts from Redwood Valley to Healdsburg, is already at one of its lowest levels since it was built in 1959. The chairman of the Redwood Valley Water District and a local grape grower, says the area needs some heavy rain within the next six weeks. If that does not happen, he says, the district plans to impose a 75 percent cutback in available water for domestic consumption.

Source: <http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20071121/APN/711210542>

18. *November 20, Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – (Georgia) **Cobb Water Authority disputes Army Corps charge.** A Georgia water supplier's efforts to continue to draw its current amount of water from Lake Allatoona come down to two arguments: math and ownership of the water. In a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers, the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority disputes a claim by the corps that it is taking too much water from the lake. The corps, which operates Allatoona and Lake Lanier, notified the regional water supplier earlier this month. The supplier filed a letter late on November 19, the chief point of which is that the corps only regulates how much water stored in Allatoona belongs to the authority; the state controls how much it withdraws. Under a contract signed by the authority and the corps in 1963 and updated twice, the authority pays to withdraw up to 34.5 million gallons of water a day from Allatoona, averaged over a year. The maximum it can take in one day is 58 million gallons. The authority easily exceeds those numbers, but only if the corps does not take into account the amount of treated water the Cobb County Water System, the authority's biggest user, returns to the lake from its two sewage treatment plants.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/cobb/stories/2007/11/20/cobbwater_1120.html

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

19. *November 21, Examiner* – (National) **Disease database may curtail 'public health emergency.'** A U.S. congressman from Maryland has authored a bill that would create a national database to track cases of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and other infectious diseases. In addition, the bill would also require all hospitals to inform the public of infectious diseases cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now monitors infectious diseases for some states, not including Maryland.

Source: [http://www.examiner.com/a-](http://www.examiner.com/a-1061165~Disease_database_may_curtail_public_health_emergency_.html)

[1061165~Disease_database_may_curtail_public_health_emergency_.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-1061165~Disease_database_may_curtail_public_health_emergency_.html)

20. *November 20, ABC News* – (National) **Too few U.S.-trained primary care doctors: study.** Only 31 percent of primary care doctors in the U.S. are homegrown, reports a study in the journal *Annals of Family Medicine*. That is because more and more U.S.-trained medical students are becoming specialists, in order to work fewer hours and make more money. As a result, the U.S. is increasingly dependent on foreign medical school graduates to fill the primary care role. "The dependence on recruiting international medical graduates is symptomatic of the sad state of primary care in the

U.S.,” said a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Low pay, inadequate funding, and poor organization are among the reasons why U.S. graduates shun primary care, he said.

Source: <http://health.usnews.com/usnews/health/healthday/071120/health-highlights-nov-20-2007.htm>

Government Facilities Sector

21. *November 21, Union-Tribune* – (California) **Ex-student arrested in bomb-threat case.**

A 36-year-old former student at Palomar College in San Marcos, California, was arrested on November 20, on suspicion of calling in several bomb threats to the school, authorities said. The school received bomb threats on September 13 and 19, and on October 18, prompting several buildings on campus to be evacuated. No bomb was found.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20071121-9999-1mi21ncwatch.html>

22. *November 20, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island) **Man arrested after gun hoax at courthouse.**

A man was arrested Tuesday at the Kent County Courthouse in Rhode Island for telling police that he had a gun. The suspect went to the courthouse shortly after court opened for the day. When he walked through the metal detector, it went off. When asked if he had any metal, he told the officers he had a gun and pointed to his waist. Officers wrestled him to the ground and handcuffed him. No weapon was found. He was charged with disorderly conduct, and a judge ordered him to receive a mental health evaluation.

Source: <http://www.turnto10.com/northeast/jar/news.apx.-content-articles-JAR-2007-11-20-0019.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

23. *November 21, Trucker News Services* – (National) **Nation’s emergency responders ask motorists to ‘slow down, move over.’**

As an estimated 38 million Americans prepare to hit the highways over the Thanksgiving holidays, state transportation departments are teaming up with emergency responders, law enforcement and other transportation agencies to reduce congestion and prevent secondary accidents through swift clearing of traffic incidents. According to the Federal Highway Administration, about 25 percent of all congestion can be attributed to traffic incidents. “We have to work together to do a better job of responding to incidents, clearing the roadway, restoring operations, and preventing secondary crashes,” said the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials executive director. “That is the goal of the Traffic Incident Management Coalition, which we strongly support.” The multi-agency “National Unified Goal for Traffic Incident Management” was highlighted at a news conference Tuesday at the Public Safety Communications Center in Montgomery County,

Maryland. The plan identifies 18 strategies for improving traffic incident clearance including such things as improved communications, “move over” mandates for minor accidents, and coordination during incident response. For complete information, see the Traffic Management Coalition Web site (<http://timcoalition.org/>).

Source:

<http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2007/11/21/Nationsemergencyrespondersaskmotoriststoslowdownmoveover.aspx>

24. *November 20, IDG News Service* – (National) **FCC awards spectrum to public safety group.** The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has awarded the license for 10 MHz of valuable wireless spectrum to a public safety organization in anticipation of the spectrum being used to build out a nationwide emergency communications network. The FCC yesterday awarded the license for the spectrum in the 700-MHz band to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust Corp. (PSST), a nonprofit organization with representatives from several public safety groups, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Sheriffs’ Association. The 10 MHz awarded to the PSST will be combined with an adjacent 10 MHz of spectrum that will be auctioned in early 2008, with the winning bidder required to create a nationwide wireless network for both public safety agencies and commercial use. The FCC award to the PSST was expected. The PSST was the only applicant for the nationwide license. The group will negotiate a network-sharing agreement with the winning bidder on the adjacent 10 MHz of spectrum, and it will administer usage fees for the nationwide network. The organization will also review requests for early build-outs and will manage public safety access to the commercial portion of the spectrum during emergencies, according to the FCC. The PSST spectrum is part of a chunk of spectrum being abandoned by U.S. television stations after Congress in late 2005 required them to move to all-digital broadcasts by early 2009. Several lawmakers and groups pushed for part of the spectrum to be used for an emergency communications network. During the September 11 terrorist attacks, and in more recent disasters, emergency response agencies found they couldn’t talk to one another because they were using a variety of equipment on different spectrum bands.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9048180&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

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Information Technology

25. *November 21, IDG News Service* – (National) **Firefox plans bug fix release for next week.** Mozilla plans to release a bug fix for its Firefox browser next week, repairing a long-standing security flaw in the software. The 2.0.0.10 update is in testing right now and should be released to the public next week, following the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S. “We are giving it a couple of days to make sure that there are no issues found and we’ll release it after Thanksgiving,” said Mozilla’s vice president of engineering. Mozilla is calling on the Firefox community to test the browser during a quality assurance “testday” this Friday. The issue was first reported last February, but it gained

widespread attention earlier this month when another prominent researcher pointed out on his blog that the flaw could be used to launch a cross-site scripting attack against the Firefox browser. The flaw has to do with the fact that Firefox does not properly check files that are compressed using the .jar (Java Archive) format. Attackers could sneak malicious code into the Jar-compressed documents, which would then be run by the victim. Shortly thereafter, yet another researcher showed how this attack could be launched against Google users, giving them access to victims' Gmail accounts, Google searches and other sensitive data stored on the Google Web site. Though both vulnerabilities are related to the way Firefox handles .jar files, Mozilla considers them to be two separate issues, both of which are set to be patched in next week's 2.0.0.10 release.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/11/21/Firefox-plans-bug-fix-release_1.html

26. *November 20, Computerworld* – (National) **Are XP, Vista vulnerable to random number generator attack?** The flaw in Windows 2000's random number generator uncovered by Israeli researchers is a vulnerability -- but not a security vulnerability, Microsoft Corp. said late last week, as it left users wondering if newer versions of the operating system shared the same problem. In a paper published earlier this month, a professor from the University of Haifa and two Hebrew University graduate students described how attackers could exploit a weakness in Windows' pseudo-random number generator (PRNG) to predict encryption keys generated by the operating system and its applications. After reverse-engineering the algorithm used to power the PRNG, they found that they could easily predict its future results and reveal what it had produced in the past. They could then compute both future and previously used encryption keys. The past was most important. "For you as a user, it means that if you are managing sensitive information today, it is not enough for you to verify that your computer hasn't been compromised in the past," said the group's leader Monday. "You should also worry about future attacks, since a compromise in the future might reveal the sensitive information used today." "In the security world, this is called an attack on 'forward secrecy,' and is taken very seriously," he added for emphasis. Microsoft acknowledged that the PRNG has a "local information disclosure vulnerability," though in a recent statement the company's security response communications manager said "there is no security vulnerability." "Information is not disclosed inappropriately to unauthorized users on any supported Windows systems. In all cases discussed in the claim, information is visible only to the users themselves or to another user logged on to the local system with administrator credentials," he said. Symantec Corp. issued a low-level alert for it Tuesday to customers of its DeepSight threat network, calling it a design error.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9048198&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

27. *November 20, Computerworld* – (New Jersey; National) **Commerce Bank breached – don't tell.** Commerce Bank of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, has notified an unspecified number of its 3 million customers of a recent data breach involving the potential

compromise of their personal data. In an e-mailed statement to a query regarding the incident, a Commerce Bank spokesman only confirmed that a “security matter” had taken place recently that impacted “only a small segment” of its three million customers. Without referring to what happened, the statement said that immediate actions had been taken to address “this matter,” including an extensive internal investigation by the bank’s corporate security team as well as notification about the incident to federal and state law enforcement authorities. The email alluded to a letter sent by the bank to the affected customers, but did not say what information on them might have been compromised in the incident. “If customers did not receive a specific letter regarding this incident there is no need for them to be concerned,” the statement said. Local media reports suggested that the compromise resulted when a bank employee apparently handed over customer information such as Social Security numbers and account information to an external third party. There was no indication, however, whether that happened inadvertently or was the result of a malicious action on the part of the employee. One blogger on LiveJournal, who claimed to be a customer of the bank, said that a Commerce Bank representative had told her about 3,000 people had been affected in the incident. Commerce was targeted by hackers earlier in the year. According to reports earlier in the fall, the bank was able to deflect most of a hacking attempt on its database, but not before some customer information was divulged.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9048278&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

28. *November 20, IDG News Service* – (National) **FCC awards spectrum to public safety group.** The U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has awarded the license for 10 MHz of valuable wireless spectrum to a public safety organization in anticipation of the spectrum being used to build out a nationwide emergency communications network. The FCC yesterday awarded the license for the spectrum in the 700-MHz band to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust Corp. (PSST), a nonprofit organization with representatives from several public safety groups, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Sheriffs’ Association. The 10 MHz awarded to the PSST will be combined with an adjacent 10 MHz of spectrum that will be auctioned in early 2008, with the winning bidder required to create a nationwide wireless network for both public safety agencies and commercial use. The FCC award to the PSST was expected. The PSST was the only applicant for the nationwide license. The group will negotiate a network-

sharing agreement with the winning bidder on the adjacent 10 MHz of spectrum, and it will administer usage fees for the nationwide network. The organization will also review requests for early build-outs and will manage public safety access to the commercial portion of the spectrum during emergencies, according to the FCC. The PSST spectrum is part of a chunk of spectrum being abandoned by U.S. television stations after Congress in late 2005 required them to move to all-digital broadcasts by early 2009. Several lawmakers and groups pushed for part of the spectrum to be used for an emergency communications network. During the September 11 terrorist attacks, and in more recent disasters, emergency response agencies found they couldn't talk to one another because they were using a variety of equipment on different spectrum bands. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9048180&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

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Commercial Facilities Sector

29. *November 21, Erie Times* – (Pennsylvania) **Triangle Tech has 2nd bomb scare.**

Classes at the Triangle Tech vocational school in Erie, Pennsylvania, were cancelled Tuesday afternoon after the second bomb scare in as many days. Authorities evacuated the school as three teams of Erie police officers searched the building and the surrounding area. A caller told the 911 dispatchers that the first officer on the scene would be shot. Police found nothing in or around the school, and no one was injured. The school's director canceled classes for the day. Police said they are investigating the source of the calls, working from phone numbers collected by the 911 center.

Source:

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071121/NEWS02/711210397/-1/NEWS>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

30. *November 21, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* – (Arkansas) **Forest Service hopes to nab wreckers of stone marker.** In Arkansas, a stone monument that marked the entrance to the Flatside Wilderness area in the Ouachita National Forest was destroyed when vandals yanked it down with a vehicle earlier this month, a district ranger said on November 20. The vandalism, a rare occurrence for the national forest, left the monument cracked and in pieces on the ground. Evidence at the scene indicated that someone had first removed large rocks at the base of the stone marker before using a vehicle to pull the stone down, the ranger for the forest's Jessieville-Winona-Fourche District said. Large-scale vandalism, such as the destruction of the Flatside marker, is uncommon in Arkansas' U. S. forests, said a spokeswoman for the Forest Service. Typically, vandalism is on a much smaller scale. For instance, hunters sometimes use small wooden signs for target practice. The U. S. Forest Service is offering a cash reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible.

Source: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/208345/>

31. *November 20, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Cleanup work to resume at Rocky Mountain Arsenal.** Cleanup work at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal interrupted by detection of a chemical weapon will resume on November 26. Federal, state and local health and environment officials approved a plan on November 20 to complete the cleanup at the Lime Basins project on the 17,000-acre arsenal 10 miles northeast of Denver. Work was halted when air monitoring detected lewisite, a chemical warfare agent developed for use in World War I and produced at the site in 1943. Officials said follow-up inspections and monitoring did not detect any more lewisite and no containers of the chemical. Detection of the chemical led to the closure of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, created on parts of the site, once a classified chemical munitions. The refuge will stay closed until cleanup at Lime Basins is completed, expected by mid-January. The work is taking place in a restricted area of the arsenal known as a disposal area for chemical agents. A 45-foot underground vertical barrier will be installed around the perimeter of the area and a cover will be added to prevent groundwater contamination. The site is home to about 330 wildlife species, including deer and bald eagles.

Source: <http://www.9news.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=81392>

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Dams Sector

32. *November 20, USA Today* – (Louisiana) **Future of levee project rests, literally, on clay.** A clay shortage, and a subsequent rise in its price, may slow progress in rebuilding the levees in and around New Orleans. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will need an estimated 145 million cubic yards of clay to fortify 350 miles of earthen levees around the greater New Orleans area, said a senior program manager with the corps charged with finding the clay. In the two years since Hurricane Katrina, the Army Corps of Engineers has only acquired 20 million cubic yards. Some parishes are nearly out of quality clay, which keeps water from penetrating levees. “We need a lot of material, it has to be good, and it has to be at a reasonable cost. Those are our current challenges.” She said. The corps acquired as much of the clay as possible immediately after Katrina. But as the need for the clay increased, a new breed of entrepreneurs, known as “clay brokers,” began acquiring properties from landowners and selling the clay to the corps, often at increased prices. Clay prices soared to around \$80 a cubic yard immediately after the hurricane, then settled to \$20 to \$30 a cubic yard this year. The clay sold for around \$10 a cubic yard pre-Katrina. For now, the Corps of Engineers is trying to deal directly with landowners and avoid the brokers to keep costs down.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-11-20-new-orleans-clay_N.htm

33. *November 20, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources* – (Pennsylvania) **Pennsylvania DCNR to begin design for dam at Ryerson Station State Park in Greene County.** On November 20, Pennsylvania’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources secretary announced work is beginning to design a

new dam to restore and improve the 62-acre lake at Ryerson Station State Park. Duke Lake, formed by the dam, was drawn down in July 2005 for safety reasons, after joint inspections by DCNR and the Department of Environmental Protection uncovered cracks in the concrete and water seepage. In August 2005, a portion of the dam spillway was removed to prevent the reservoir from refilling from heavy rain and runoff. Design of the structure is expected to take at least 18 months, with an additional minimum of 18 months for construction of the dam.

Source: <http://www.state.pa.us/papower/cwp/view.asp?Q=469535&A=11>

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